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Mission San Juan Capistrano  
San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, Calif.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of California. #3.

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Henry F. Withey, District Officer  
407 So. Western Avenue,  
Los Angeles, California.

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO  
San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, Calif.

Owner: Roman Catholic Bishop, Diocese of Los Angeles  
and San Diego. 714 West Olympic Blvd; Los Angeles

Date of erection: Founded 1776. Construction of buildings  
was almost continuous for many years. The stone church  
was completed in 1806.

Architect:

Builder: Indian labor under direction of the Padres.

Present condition: The stone church is in a ruined state,  
walls and roof of the Sanctuary & Sacristy and parts of the  
east and west Transept walls remain standing as well as  
small fragments of the walls forming the Nave. The Padres'  
house, Refectory, Serra's Church, Living Quarters, and the  
Barracks building have all been restored and are in good  
repair. A new building used as a school has been erected  
on the site of the original building of the shops; Of the  
structures on the West side of the inner quadrangle little  
more than the foundations remains. Serra's church has been  
much changed from the original design.

Number of stories: For the most part one story.

Materials of Construction: The large or stone church, as  
it is called, was built of field and quarry stone. Both  
yellow and blue sand stones were used for quoin treatment  
of exterior corners, cornices, pilasters, mouldings, and  
arches. The roof was also of stone, built in the form of  
arches and domes. This stone was quarried in the hills or  
mountains not far distant; field stones were used in the  
body of the walls laid up in lime mortar. See plans.  
Walls of all other buildings were built of sun dried adobe  
brick and with lime stone lintels over a few of the more  
important doors and windows. Colonnade piers and arches  
forming corridors were built of brick with sand stone  
springer and key stones in arches. All walls both inside  
and out including all stone work was plastered and white  
washed. Original roofs were of heavy frame construction  
and covered with tile. Floors are, in general, of large  
red brick tile. Brick was used with the adobe occasionally  
for window and door arches and jambs.

Other Existing Records: Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M.  
"Missions and Missionaries," and "Mission San Juan Capis-  
trano." Rexford Newcomb, "The Old Mission Churches and  
Historic Houses of California," 1925. George Wharton James,  
"In and Out of the Old Missions."

Forbes, A. S. C. Forbes, "California Missions and Landmarks-HABS  
El Camino Real," 1915. H. H. Bancroft, "History of CAL  
California," Vols. I-V, 1889. 30-54500

Additional Data: In plan this was the most elaborate of the 21 California Missions' being the seventh in the chain. The first building of permanent character was the chapel now known as Serra's Church. This formed the East side of a quadrangle, while on the south was built the Padres' Living Quarters, and shops and store rooms formed the remaining sides. Outside the quadrangle was built a structure called the barracks for the Military guard.

The most important and pretentious building of the group is the Stone Church begun in 1796 and finished in 1806. It was partly destroyed in 1812 by an earthquake, and has not been used since that time. In the 1860's an attempt was made to rebuild the church with adobe walls but the work was not completed.

The reader is referred to the volume "Mission San Juan Capistrano" by Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt for a description of the several buildings as they were originally built, and a description of the repairs made in recent years.

By 1900 the several Mission buildings were in a much ruined condition when the Landmarks Club of Southern California under the presidency of Charles Lummis raised funds and with the assistance of A. B. Benton, Architect of Los Angeles directed repairs and reconstruction over a period of seven years. The Fathers in charge of the Mission since that time have continued the restoration work as funds have been available.

The reredos in Serra's church brought from Spain a few years ago, was a gift to the Mission and the church was enlarged to receive it.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
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June 1, 1937.

*[Handwritten initials]* 7/21/57